



Munitions Response Services (MRS)
MEC Clearance, Former Adak Naval Air Facility
Adak, Alaska

**Environment, Energy & Sustainability
Symposium & Exhibition**

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PRESENTATION OBJECTIVES



- **MRS Challenges at a remote location**
- **Logistical, Transportation & Operational challenges**
 - **Logistics**
 - **Infrastructure**
 - **Resupply**
- **Environmental challenges**
 - **Weather**
 - **Terrain**
 - **Operations**
- **Lessons learned**
- **Questions**



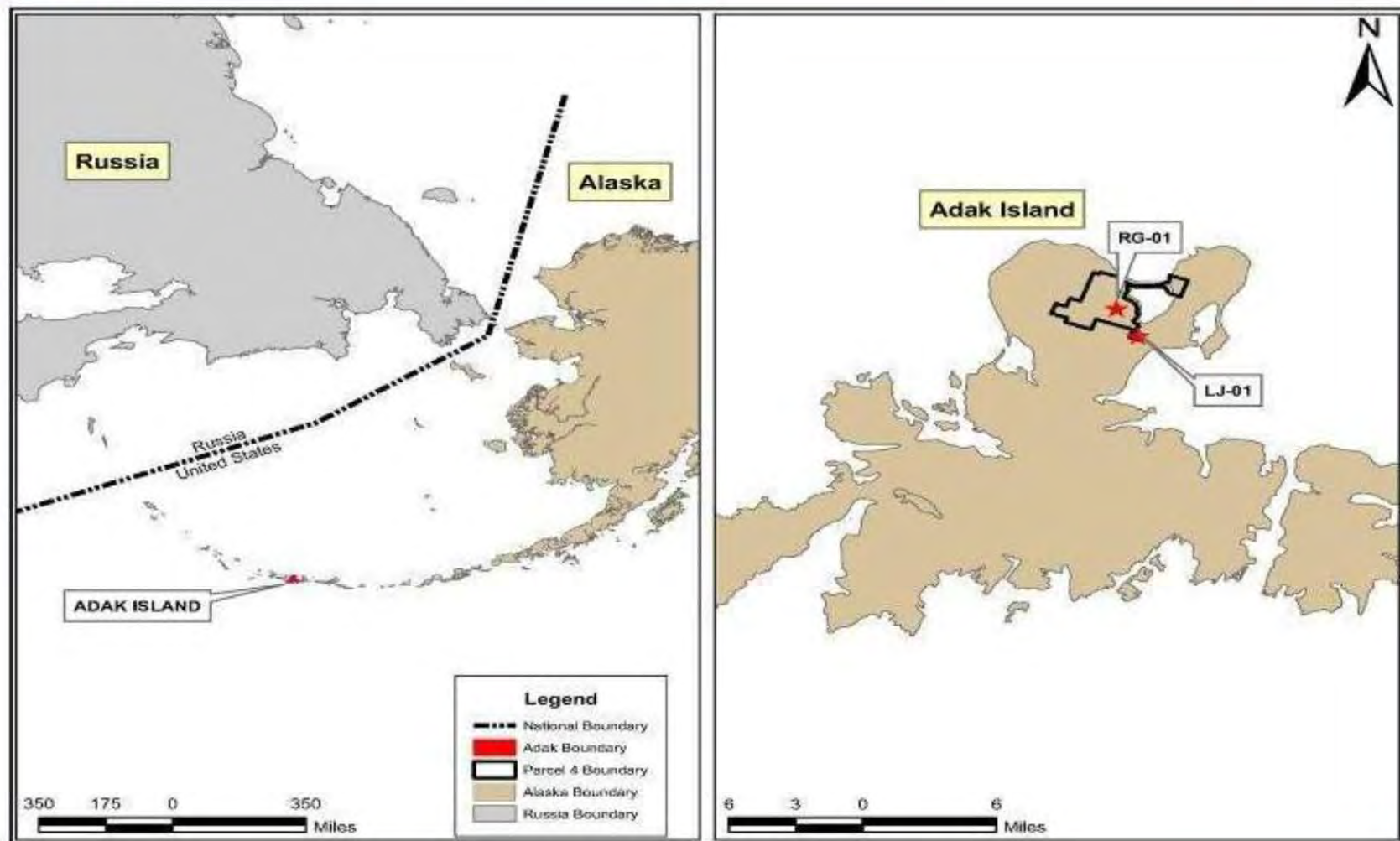
Background



- **Navy Munitions Response Contract (MRC) for Worldwide Sites**
 - **Remedial Action for MRS Rifle Grenade Range RG-01 to 2-feet (analog & DGM)**
 - **Remedial Action and AOC Certification for MRS Lake Jean LJ-01 to 4-feet (DGM)**
 - **Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) DGM of 24 sites in Operating Unit (OU) B-2 in Parcel 4**



Location





Transportation



- Explosives, vehicles & Equipment by barge
- Regular barge twice monthly to Dutch Harbor
- Charter to Adak with 2-3 weeks advance notice
- Airline service (half passenger/half cargo) twice weekly (weather & volcanoes permitting)





Infrastructure



- Former Navy military housing (2 bedroom, 2 ½ bath)
- Limited food service
- Limited expendable sundries & supplies (costly)
- Vehicles are Rent-a-Wrecks left behind from the Navy (also costly)
- High costs for fuel





Climate & Geology



- Average annual mean temperature 50 degrees Fahrenheit
- Average wind velocity is 12 knots with 50+ knot winds frequently in summer
- Rain and mist most days
- Highest elevation is Mount Moffett (3,875 feet)
- Few trees and mainly tundra over volcanic rock ranging from a few inches to several feet thick
- Wet and flooding in lower areas due to snowmelt from the mountains





Terrain & Vegetation



- Varied terrain with limited roads and trails access
- Lowlands are crisscrossed with runoff streams and standing water
- Most site access is by foot and all terrain vehicle (ATV)
- Tundra grass height ranges from 1-4 feet





ATV



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ATV



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Vegetation & Weather



- Vegetation ranges in height from several feet to bare ground
- Most days on site were either raining, misty or a combination of both
- Foul weather gear is a must



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Analog Operations



- Due to hazardous items (40mm Grenades) all initial entry and intrusive operations were in protective gear



- Footing on slopes with protective gear was tenuous





Protective Ensemble



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DGM Operations



- Digital Geophysical Mapping (DGM) was performed using an EM-61 in the “stretcher mode” due to uneven terrain
- Steep terrain was also a challenge for DGM teams





Scrap Processing



- All munitions debris required certification and verification as 5X prior to off-site shipment for final demilitarization and disposal
- Adak has no sources for propane to operate the Thermal Flashing Unit (TFU)





Lessons Learned



- Plan ahead for Barge shipments. While advertized trip is 16 days from Seattle, actual time in route was 22 days.
- Plan for hazardous cargo, such as explosives and propane, that cannot go on passenger airlines for barge shipment. Estimate your requirements then double them as charter flights are expensive.
- Do ship all anticipated expendables and repair parts (such as truck tires, spare electronics, batteries, etc.) otherwise equipment is down waiting for next air cargo.
- Do not assume that there will always be two flights per week.
- Do have available a checkbook and credit card (MasterCard/Visa) as cash is scarce on Adak.
- Take your fishing gear as it's the only recreational activity on island



Questions?